

The Hamilton County Council and Hamilton County Board of Commissioners met on Friday, March 1, 2002 in joint session. The meeting took place in the Prairie House at Conner Prairie, 13400 Allisonville Road, Fishers, Indiana.

Call to Order:

County Council President Judy Levine called the Hamilton County Council meeting to order. Roll Call was taken by Robin M. Mills, Auditor. Judy Levine, John Hiatt, Meredith Carter, Jim Belden, Brad Beaver and Christine Altman were present. Rick McKinney was absent. A quorum was declared present. Rick McKinney arrived late.

Board of Commissioners President Sharon R. Clark called the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners meeting to order. A quorum was declared present of Commissioner Sharon R. Clark, Commissioner Steven C. Dillinger and Commissioner Steven A. Holt. Holt stated it is my understanding that we are meeting today to work with the County Council in prioritizing long-term capital expenditures for the County. The County Council has established the location of their Retreat which is the Prairie House at Conner Prairie, which is located in Delaware Township, Hamilton County, Indiana. Therefore, I make a motion that the Commissioners find that it is inconvenient for the Board of Commissioners to meet at the County Courthouse as stated in Indiana Code 36-2-2-9. The purpose of the meeting is to meet with County Council and it is inconvenient to meet at the Courthouse if the County Council is meeting at Conner Prairie. Dillinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Clark stated therefore, based on the finding that it would be inconvenient to meet at the County Courthouse, I declare the meeting of the County Commissioners in order.

Councilor Levine stated the goal of this meeting is to have an action plan at the end of our agenda on each of the items on the agenda. President Levine asked everyone to review the agenda for additions or deletions. Councilor Altman asked that we treat this as an informational session and the County Council reconvene at a convenient time to fully look at the Huskey Report and the fiscal impact and not come up with any resolutions or commitments on funding until we have more time to look at each thing individually. Councilor Levine stated if there are items we can reach consensus on, we probably should reach consensus. Holt stated the Indianapolis Water Company purchase is in the process of resolving itself and a short overview is all the time he will need. Councilor Carter stated he would like to talk about customer service as we go through the day. Councilor Levine thanked Jim Vaughn and Fred Swift for their work on planning the meeting.

Bond Capacity: (Tape 1, #300)

Randy Ruhl, City Securities, reviewed the Hamilton County's Outstanding Bond Capacity (Exhibit A).

Highway Bond Report: (Tape 1, #820)

Mike Reuter reviewed the Highway Bond Report, revised December 31, 2001 (Exhibit B).

- Fund #161, 146th Street/US 31 Bridge - Original budget of \$8.2 million. There is approximately \$300,000 left in this account and there is no activity.
- Fund #156, 116th Street/White River Bridge, 146th Street/Olio Road Project. These funds were restricted to Major Bridge dollars. The Field Drive Bridge is now included in this fund. Excess proceeds went to the Field Drive Bridge.
- Fund #159, Olio Road, Strawtown, 116th Street Bridge at Sand Creek. Estimating a surplus of approximately \$720,000.
- Lease Rental Account - Highway COIT money. Approximately \$50,000 left.

Mike Reuter summarized these accounts stating we have approximately \$1 million that could be used. Mike cautioned that Fund #161, 146th Street/US 31, is a TIF area and those funds have to be spent in that area.

Dillinger stated this underscores Les Locke and the Highway Department's credibility on how they have managed this money.

Fiscal Plan: (Tape 1, #993)

Mike Reuter reviewed the Hamilton County Fiscal Plan revised February 14, 2002 (draft) (Exhibit C). This plan does include Additional Appropriations approved in January and February 2002.

- There will be 27 payrolls in 2004. We will need to appropriate more dollars in 2004.
- Health Insurance has increased 20%. This is an unknown at this point. He has projected an additional appropriation of \$500,000. This will probably not be sufficient for 2002. Councilor Altman asked Mike Reuter to communicate with the Insurance Committee on a regular basis.
- Inflation - Supplies, Other Services, Charges and Capital Outlays - we are carrying 3% and there have been indications that inflation could be as low as 1% this year.
- COIT - difficult to predict. Mike reviewed COIT Distribution.
- ISSD Capital Plan - difficult to predict anywhere from \$2.2 to \$4 million.
- Future Debt Expenditures - Major Bridge Fund payment out of Major Bridge. Highway COIT paid out of Highway COIT Fund. Those are revenue bonds paid from existing revenue. You have the capacity from COIT standpoint, but from operating standpoint you can not continue to commit millions of dollars to it because you are drawing away from existing revenue sources. Lease Rental and Jail Lease Rental are property tax backed. There is a separate fund and separate rate. Nothing else can be paid out of those.
- New Positions - the current Reassessment Fund has plenty of cash. Based on the fixed cost of the future and what the levy is set out for future reassessments, we have too much. Eventually we will not have enough cash. We will start bringing a couple of the positions back into the General Fund.
- Carmel Annexation - has major impact on distribution of COIT. If levys went up \$4 million, as a result of the new area, that means that Carmel will receive \$4 million of the \$100 million COIT that the County receives.

Juvenile Detention Facility: (Tape 2, #220)

Commissioner Dillinger stated last year a decision was made that we needed a study of Hamilton County's judicial system. Huskey & Associates, Inc. has prepared a study and recommendations. Ms. Bobby Huskey presented an overview of the Master Plan for Corrections in Hamilton County, Indiana. (Exhibit D).

- 10 year plan.
- If nothing happens in Hamilton County, we will need 69 juvenile beds. Currently have capacity of 21 beds. Need additional 48 new maximum security beds.
- Ms. Huskey recommended a modified approach, a comprehensive, multi-faceted strategy that will save considerable money in terms of capital and operational costs. This approach will have 28 new maximum security beds built at the Juvenile Detention Center, if you consider a less secure residential detention center, which is 20 beds. This would be halfway between probation and detention. Currently Hamilton County has home and maximum security, there is nothing in between. It would be staff secure, it would identify kids that need to be taken out of the home, but would be within the county. In addition there would be 41 program slots, that could also be beds. This would be an intake, intervention center that would give police a safe place to drop off kids to be assessed and to develop a plan. This facility would have program space, expanded administrative space, and a 20 bed probation center. Other components may be needed at this location, more courtroom space, probation space and prosecutor space. This area could have an extended day school for kids at risk of dropping out of school. Day reporting is an option.

- Day treatment is a gap in Hamilton County.
- Several funding resources are available, TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) and Title IV-E.

Larry Dawson, Envoy, stated the Hamilton County Criminal Justice Taskforce has adopted the concept that Huskey & Associates has recommended for a Juvenile Justice Center at the current site and add on to that building.

- Non-Residential Component (41 program slots) - 13,076 sq ft
- Courtroom, Court Staff, Prosecutor and Probation Staff - 11,065 sq ft
- New Secure Detention Component (28 beds and program space) - 18,845 sq ft
- New Less Secure Residential Center (20 beds) - 11,810 sq ft
- Shared Services - 11,368 sq ft
- Total Building Size - approximately 72,780 sq ft
- Estimated construction costs - \$17,221,132 (does not include financing or loose equipment)
- Current adult jail is 70,000 sq ft
- Ms. Huskey stated buildings can be broken out of this campus and placed within the community.
- Need to address information systems problem.

Lease Rental Bonds: (Tape 2, #2145)

Mike Reuter reviewed the Tax Lease Rental Bonds for the 1990 Judicial Building Project and 1991 Jail Project 2002 Current Refunding Analysis (Exhibit E). The total refunding savings is approximately \$3.3 million.

- Mike Howard stated the refunding will be done no matter what. It will be presented for approval at the April Council meeting.
- Councilor Altman stated she is concerned about the operating costs once the Juvenile Justice Center is opened.

Larry Dawson stated it is important that the next phase only go so far. We need a defined scope of the construction of the project designed by an architect or engineer, only through schematics. The Criminal Justice Taskforce would have a separate element from that by figuring out the operational needs and Jim Vaughn will have an operational responsibility of seeing if we can get money.

Councilor Carter stated we need to look at things we could be doing now.

Councilor Altman stated she was very impressed with the study and commended the Taskforce and Ms. Huskey and her organization on their hard work.

IWC Purchase: (Tape 2, #3098)

Commissioner Holt requested the IWC purchase by the City of Indianapolis be removed from the agenda. If anyone has questions they can speak to him.

Hamilton County Animal Control: (Tape 2, #3155)

- Councilor Levine stated the Board of Commissioners and the Animal Taskforce have approved first reading of an Animal Control Ordinance.
- Councilor Levine summarized AA Humane Solution, Understanding the Need for Animal Control in Hamilton County@ (Exhibit F).
- Rural vs. Suburban
- Humane Society is a volunteer organization. They are spending so much time on the disposition of animals being dumped, that they can not do their fundraising. They are spending all their donations on county animal control and they are out of money. They project they will need \$288,000 to shelter stray animals thru the end of 2002. The money from the municipalities is not working. Commissioner Clark stated it is the County's responsibility to fund the operation for the care of stray animals.
- It would cost approximately \$550,000 to retrofit the current facility. Councilor Levine is hoping to fund it with the first part of the Juvenile Justice Center.

(Tape 3, #97)

- Commissioner Holt stated this is a multi-faceted problem. We are talking about animal shelter and animal control. The legislation states that each governmental entity has a responsibility for animal control within their jurisdiction, which means every town and city within Hamilton County has a statutory obligation to pay for it and provide for it. Animal shelter is not logical on a municipal level. Commissioner Holt stated Councilor Levine believes the county should assume responsibility for animal control, there is no funding mechanism for that. Commissioner Holt stated he believes that each municipality is best suited to deal with animal control. Commissioner Holt stated in terms of animal control he would submit that the county should properly fund the Sheriff to have a person who has a proper unit dedicated to hauling animals. Commissioner Holt stated he agrees with Clark and Levine regarding animal shelter, that the county provide in that area. Commissioner Holt stated it is not fair to pay for it out of County General or COIT, it should be through a mechanism that animal owners are paying for it through licensing. A portion of the license fees pay for animal shelter operation along with user fees. Commissioner Holt stated he does not know if he supports expanding the facility where it is. The animals do not need to be inside that fence. We do have limited acreage on Cumberland Road and criminal justice has proven itself as our largest growth industry. Councilor Levine stated animal calls are the second greatest calls the Sheriff's Department receives. Is there a way to capture the fines that are being imposed in the ordinance? Councilor Altman stated if it is county ordinance it can be put in a non-reverting fund.
- Councilor Hiatt has asked for a copy of a complete audit, which he has not seen yet. They will have to change their ways of adopting because farmers will not keep a dog in the house.
- Councilor Altman stated the county's responsibility is to control animals within the county jurisdiction within the unincorporated areas and that is to collect the animals, hold them for a specific period of time and then if no one claims them then either we hold them for adoption, which is not considered county or governmental business or turn them over to another entity. The public/private partnership worked until we had the burgeoning growth and citizens did not want to contribute to the Humane Society and it is clear the jurisdictions do not want to. She would like to investigate what is our base cost if we did our facility for detention, as required by statute, allow the other municipalities to bring their animals that they collect at a cost share situation at our existing facilities and encourage people to do the humane thing and take care of their animals and support the Humane Society. Holding animals for adoption increases the county costs and we can't afford that.
- The law requires we hold animals for 7 days.
- The Humane Society would have to make some major philosophy changes and they are a private organization and we can't dictate what they can do.

- Councilor Beaver suggested funding them for 2002 with the idea that in 2003 we would take care of our county responsibility and that is it.
- Councilor Altman would like to see the operational numbers for the county to operate what the county's responsibilities are.

County Fair Government Display: (Tape 3, #1338)

Councilor Levine stated we have had a problem at the Hamilton County Fair with the government displays. The proposal is that the ~~A~~bullpen at the Pleasant Street site is scheduled to come down. We are proposing to put a government tent at that location with all the agencies in one tent. It would be air conditioned. We may have to come up with an additional appropriation to accomplish this.

Break for lunch. 12:00 - 1:00 pm

President Levine called the meeting back to order.

Road and Bridge Construction: (Tape 3, #1432)

- Commissioner Dillinger reviewed ~~A~~Philosophy on Road Improvements (Exhibit G).
- Mike Reuter reviewed the bond funding options for highway projects.
- Councilor McKinney would like to investigate reinstating the Wheel Tax. Commissioner Holt stated he and Commissioner Dillinger led the charge for abolishing the Wheel Tax. He can't imagine re-implementing the Wheel Tax. Councilor McKinney stated he would not vote for any bond unless we put the Wheel Tax back on. There is a question whether the Commissioners and County Council both have to approve the Wheel Tax, Robin Mills will check the statute. Commissioner's have no interest in a Wheel Tax. *(Ms. Mills found according to IC -6-3.5-4, County Council has the authority to impose the County Sur-Wheel tax.)*
- The Commissioner's confirmed that their priority list for highway projects is as listed on the Proposed Bond Projects in Exhibit G, revised 12/1/01.

Lobbyist: (Tape 3, #2560)

Councilor Levine stated the Port Authority hired Jan Powell, a lobbyist in Washington, DC. She kept the Port Authority in the loop for funding requests and they received \$3 million. Ms. Powell's contract with the Port Authority has run out. Ms. Powell knows how to put the package together and follow it through and we currently do not have that expertise. Councilor Levine suggested cost sharing Jan Powell with Noblesville and Fishers. Councilor Altman stated Noblesville and Fishers have stated this would be a good idea and they are willing to do it. The problem with getting federal gas money back is that it goes through the MPO and we are included in the MPO that includes Marion County. We need to put projects into the next funding cycle by the end of March. Councilor Altman stated it would be \$6,500 per month and we would share the costs with Noblesville and Fishers. Carmel has their own lobbyist and they have received millions of dollars. Councilor Levine stated this is a yearly contract. Councilor Beaver stated he is in favor of paying for a lobbyist. **Commissioner Holt motioned to request County Council to fund placing Jan Powell's firm on retainer for whatever percentage we can negotiate with our partner communities. Commissioner Dillinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously (3-0). Councilor Altman motioned to resolve to fund the initial retainer amount of 3 months and request supplemental funding from Fishers and Noblesville. Councilor Beaver seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).**

Discussion followed on funding options. Mike Reuter asked the Council and Commissioners to prioritize the major capital projects and then he can work on how far they can go regarding funding.

E-911 Update: (Tape 3, #3495)

Commissioner Clark reviewed E-911 Legislative History (Exhibit H). Commissioner Clark stated the funding for the enhanced communication system was recommended to come from the E-911 funds. Commissioner Clark stated she and Jim Kinder testified before the committee regarding Senator Kenley's amendment to the wireless communications bill. During the second reading to the Senate the amendment was attached to Bill #1378 and it passed with the amendment. Commissioner Clark corrected Exhibit H, paragraph 2 to add under authority of the county subdivision. The bill goes back to the sponsors and if the amendment is allowed to stand it will go to the Governor. If we get this passed and at some point in the future if we want to combine the dispatch centers, it will not matter where the center is located in the county. Councilor Beaver stated we have an obligation to solve the problem the Sheriff put in front of us, but he will not go to the General Fund for \$5 million to do it. If we get this legislation passed that allows us to raise the rate and use the money to help us, then he would be more open minded to raising the rate and see how much we could bring in to help fund that particular problem. Councilor McKinney asked what is the current revenue from land based lines? Ms. Mills stated it is approximately \$300,000 which pays for the salaries and equipment rental. Councilor Levine stated until the enabling legislation passes it is a moot point. Commissioner Clark stated if we do not get the enabling legislation the E-911 Review Board has another position that in order to do the communications system with the legislation in place now we could pay all personnel costs out of the 911 Fund. If we did that the \$1 million out of General Fund that is used for dispatch salaries could be used to pay for the communications system. The personnel costs would come out of the 911 fund for all 3 dispatchers. This would relieve the costs of the personnel from the general fund. We could only do this if Council approves the rate increase. **Councilor Belden motioned to table this discussion. Councilor Beaver seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).**

Employee Parking Needs: (Tape 4, #540)

Fred Swift presented a map of the county parking lots and building locations (Exhibit I). We presently have 237 parking spaces in 2 lots. We need 230 spaces for employees. Mr. Swift stated in a year or two full time employees will not have a place to park. **Commissioner Clark motioned to appoint a taskforce to bring back a recommendation. Members would be Fred Swift, Robin Mills, Brad Beaver and Steve Dillinger. Commissioner Holt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (3-0).**

Councilor Levine stated she is concerned about the intersection of SR 32 and 8th Street. It is a safety issue for the employees. Commissioner Dillinger stated we looked at putting a walk down by the river that would come from the south parking lot to the Judicial Center at an estimated cost of \$300,000. Commissioner Dillinger suggested working with the Riverwalk Committee and coordinate that walkway. Commissioner Holt stated that \$300,000 included the amphitheater, landscaping, etc. Commissioner Dillinger stated it would help the Riverwalk Committee if the county would pay for the walkways underneath the bridge. Consensus was that the county would pay for the walkway.

Park Land: (Tape 4, #1231)

Commissioner Holt requested consideration of giving a green light to the Parks Department to be more proactive in bringing opportunities to the County Council for land acquisition. (Exhibit J)

Summary: (Tape 4, #1323)

Councilor Levine stated there is consensus that we will have to meet together a couple more times for specific items as they are ready.

Juvenile Justice Center:

- Taskforce will look at off-site possibilities.
- Ordinance to set up governing body.

- Costs for conceptual design - preliminary engineering, land site.
- Need estimate of operational costs.
- Look at what programs we can implement now before we do anything else.

Commissioner Dillinger stated we need a letter of understanding of what we agreed to at this meeting. Councilor Levine stated she, Sharon Clark, Fred Swift and Jim Vaughn will put that together.

Animal Control: (Tape 4, #2124)

- Continue funding through end of 2002.
- Need projected costs of County doing it verses Humane Society.
- Need county's statutory responsibility of costs for employees, facility, etc. per year.
- Costs for a portable building, for the short term, for a spay-neuter operation for 2002, at the county's expense.
- Jim Vaughn is to gather information of what other county's programs and costs are for animal control.
- Review Humane Society contract.
- Get total costs what we spent in 2001 - contract, additional appropriations, etc.
- Judy, Sharon and Rick will research.

E-911: (Tape 4, #2850)

- Call Senators and Representatives supporting the Bill.
- If Bill passes look at costs and bring recommendation to Council.

Employee Parking: (Tape 4, #2913)

- Taskforce (Dillinger, Beaver, Mills and Swift) will bring back a short term solution and a long term solution.

Parks: (Tape 4, #2930)

- Balanced program for build-out.
- Need funding mechanism to acquire land and improve what we have.
- Need to identify possible acquisitions and how to finance. Need time line.
- Need to build out what we have.

Need funding formula on what needs to be done. Define costs of projects and ask Mike Reuter to come up with different revenue sources and options to fund them.

Consensus was reached that Juvenile Justice Center is first priority. Criminal Justice Taskforce will provide costs for construction and operation. Mike Reuter will look at revenue and funding options and then what is left will go towards road projects in priority order as listed in Exhibit G.

Councilor Hiatt motioned to adjourn the County Council meeting. Councilor Belden seconded. Motion carried unanimously. (7-0)

Commissioner Holt motioned to adjourn the Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Dillinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Present:

Sharon R. Clark, Commissioner

Kate Lewis, Ledger

Steven C. Dillinger, Commissioner

Phil Dunlap, Indianapolis Star

Steven A. Holt, Commissioner

Anita Malichi, WTHR

Christine Altman, County Council

Brad Beaver, County Council

Jim Belden, County Council

Meredith Carter, County Council

John Hiatt, County Council

Judy Levine, County Council

Rick McKinney, County Council

Mike Howard, County Attorney

John Culp, Council Attorney

Robin M. Mills, Auditor

Fred Swift, Administrative Assistant to Commissioners

Jim Vaughn, Fiscal and Grant Analyst

Dawn Coverdale, Chief Deputy Auditor

Kim Rauch, Executive Secretary to Auditor

Mike Reuter, Fiscal Advisor

Randy Reuhl, City Securities

David S. Potter

Dick Frost

Larry Pearson

Jim Garretson

Dan Stevens

Larry Dawson

Bobbie Huskey

Doug Carter

Tom Stevens

Les Locke

Ted Rowland, Noblesville Times

APPROVED

HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

Robin M. Mills, Auditor

Date

APPROVED

HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL

ATTEST:

Robin M. Mills, Auditor

Date